



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 19, 1998

Mr. Mario Vasquez
Assistant General Counsel
Houston Independent School District
Hattie Mae White Administration Building
3830 Richmond Avenue
Houston, Texas 77027-5838

OR98-2780

Dear Mr. Vasquez:

You have asked whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 119693.

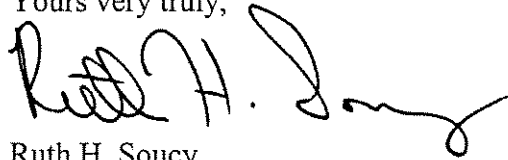
The Houston Independent School District (the "district") received a request for the complete names, teacher certificate numbers, current addresses, and current telephone numbers of three teachers. It is our understanding that the teacher certificate numbers are the only items at issue. You assert that these numbers are protected from disclosure under federal law in conjunction with section 552.101 of the Government Code, which provides that information is protected from disclosure if it is confidential by law.

In Open Records Decision No. 622 (1994), we agreed that the Social Security Act, in conjunction with section 552.101 of the Government Code, makes confidential "social security account numbers and related records" that were obtained or which are maintained pursuant to any provision of law enacted on or after October 1, 1990. 42 U.S.C. § 405(c)(2)(C)(viii)(I). Related records are those records, lists, or compilations that indicate, either directly or indirectly, the identity of an individual for whom a social security account number is maintained. *Id.* § 405(c)(2)(C)(viii)(IV).

You assert that the teachers' social security numbers held by the district are confidential as outlined in Open Records Decision No. 622 (1994). You point out that the requested teaching certificate numbers identify the teachers' social security numbers and thus you contend that the teaching certificate numbers are "related records." We agree. Thus, because the teachers' social security numbers are confidential, the teaching certificate numbers which reveal the social security numbers also are confidential and may not be released to the requestor.

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruth H. Soucy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ruth H. Soucy
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

RHS/ch

Ref: ID# 119693

Enclosures: Submitted documents